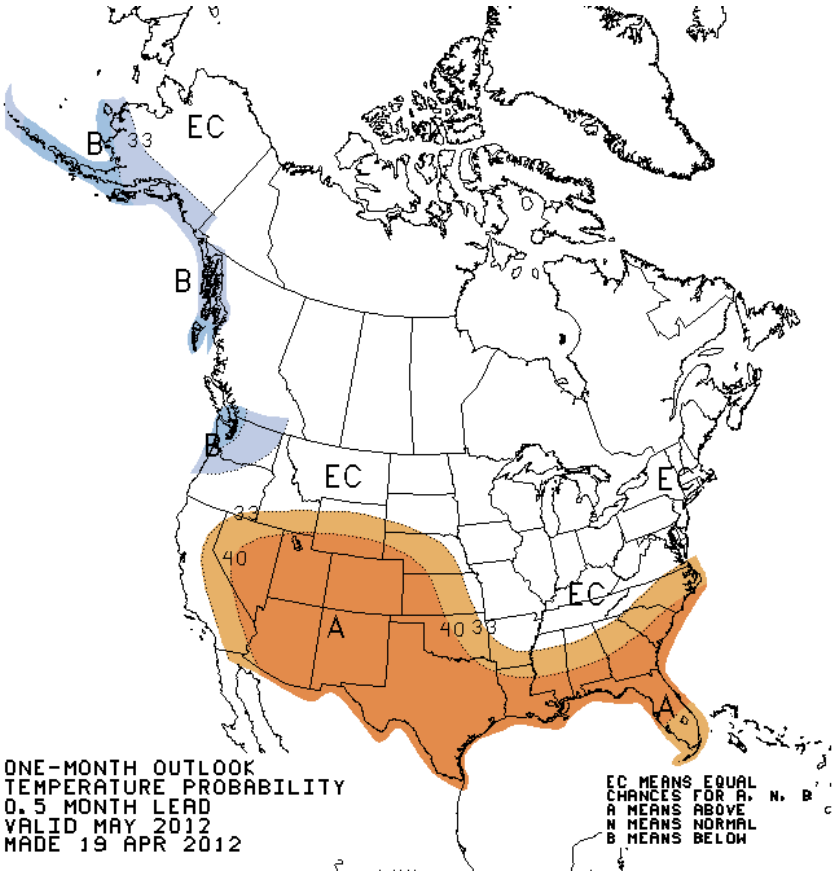
North Central United States May & May-June-July 2012 Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Climate Outlook and Summary

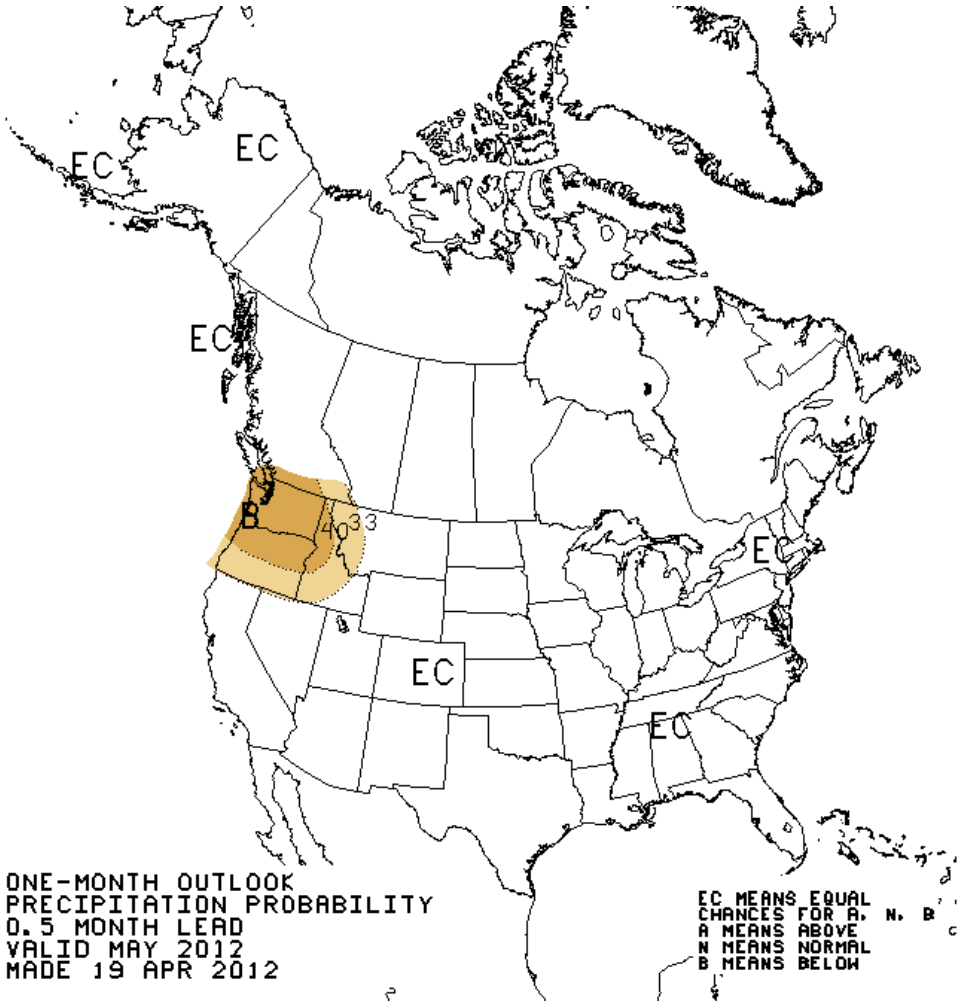
May Temperature Outlook:

Much of the North Central United States has indeterminate chances of above-normal, near-normal and below-normal temperatures during May; or stated another way, a 33% chance of above-normal temperatures, a 33% chance of near-normal temperatures, and a 33% chance of below-normal temperatures relative to climatology. The exception will be over the southwestern portions of the region where there will be enhanced chance of above-normal temperatures. There will be a 33% to 40% chance of above-normal temperatures (with a 33% chance of near-normal temperatures and a 27% to 33% of below-normal temperatures relative to climatology) for far southwestern South Dakota and northwestern and central Nebraska during May; while a greater than 40% chance of above-normal temperatures relative to climatology (and a 33% chance of near-normal, and a 17 to 27% chance of below-normal temperatures) will exist for southwestern Nebraska for the month.



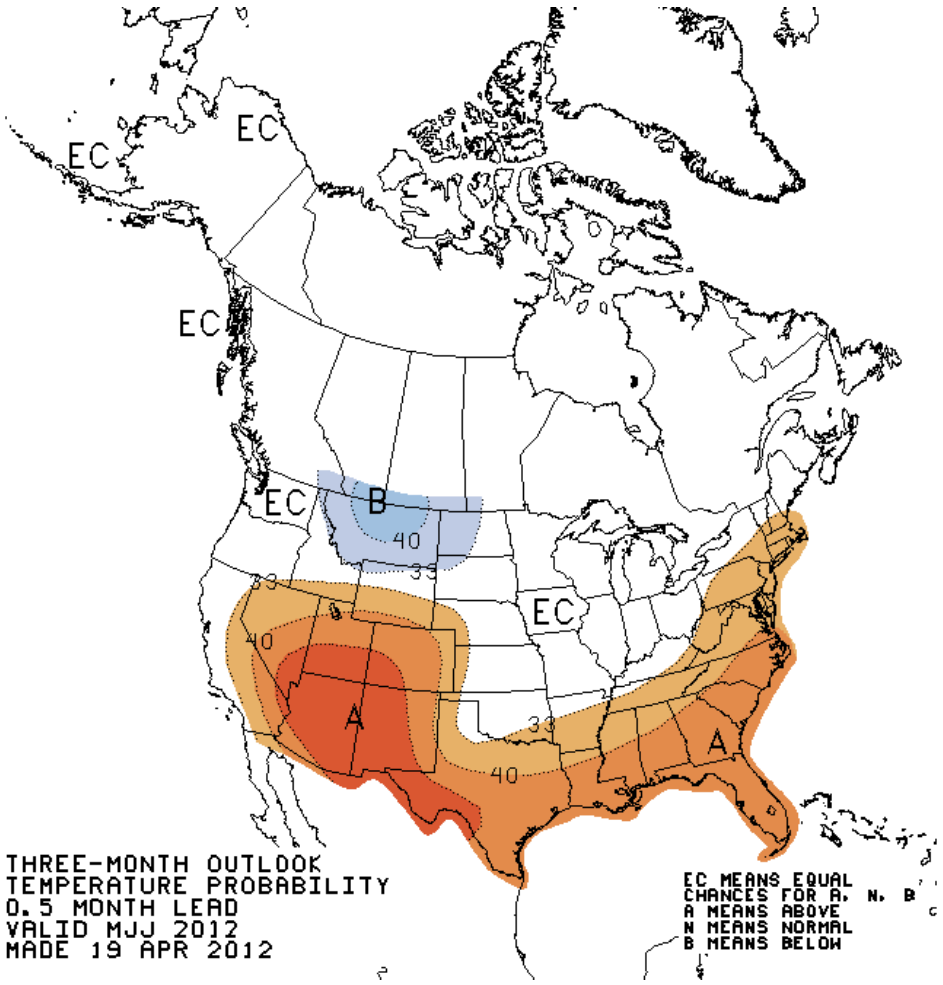
May Precipitation Outlook:

For the month of May the entire region will have equal chances of any of the three categories; i.e. a 33% chance of above-normal precipitation, a 33% chance of near-normal precipitation, and a 33% chance of below-normal precipitation.



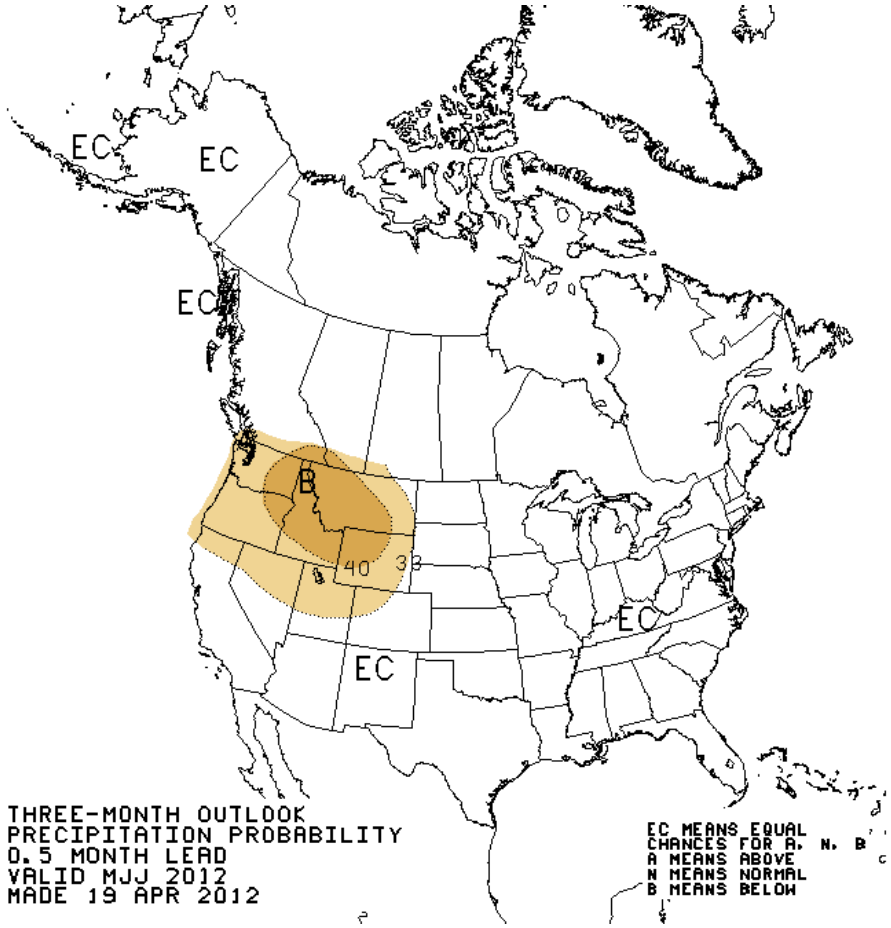
May - July Temperature Outlook:

While most of the region will have indeterminate chances of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal temperatures for the late spring/early summer months, there will be a couple of exceptions. The best chance of above-normal temperatures relative to climatology will occur over southwestern Nebraska, where there will be a 33% to 40% chance of above-normal temperatures for May through July (with a 33% chance of near-normal temperatures, and a 27% to 33% of below-normal temperatures). To the north of this area, there is a 33% to 40% chance of below-normal temperatures for the period (with a 33% chance of near-normal temperatures, and a 27% to 33% chance of above-normal temperatures relative to climatology).



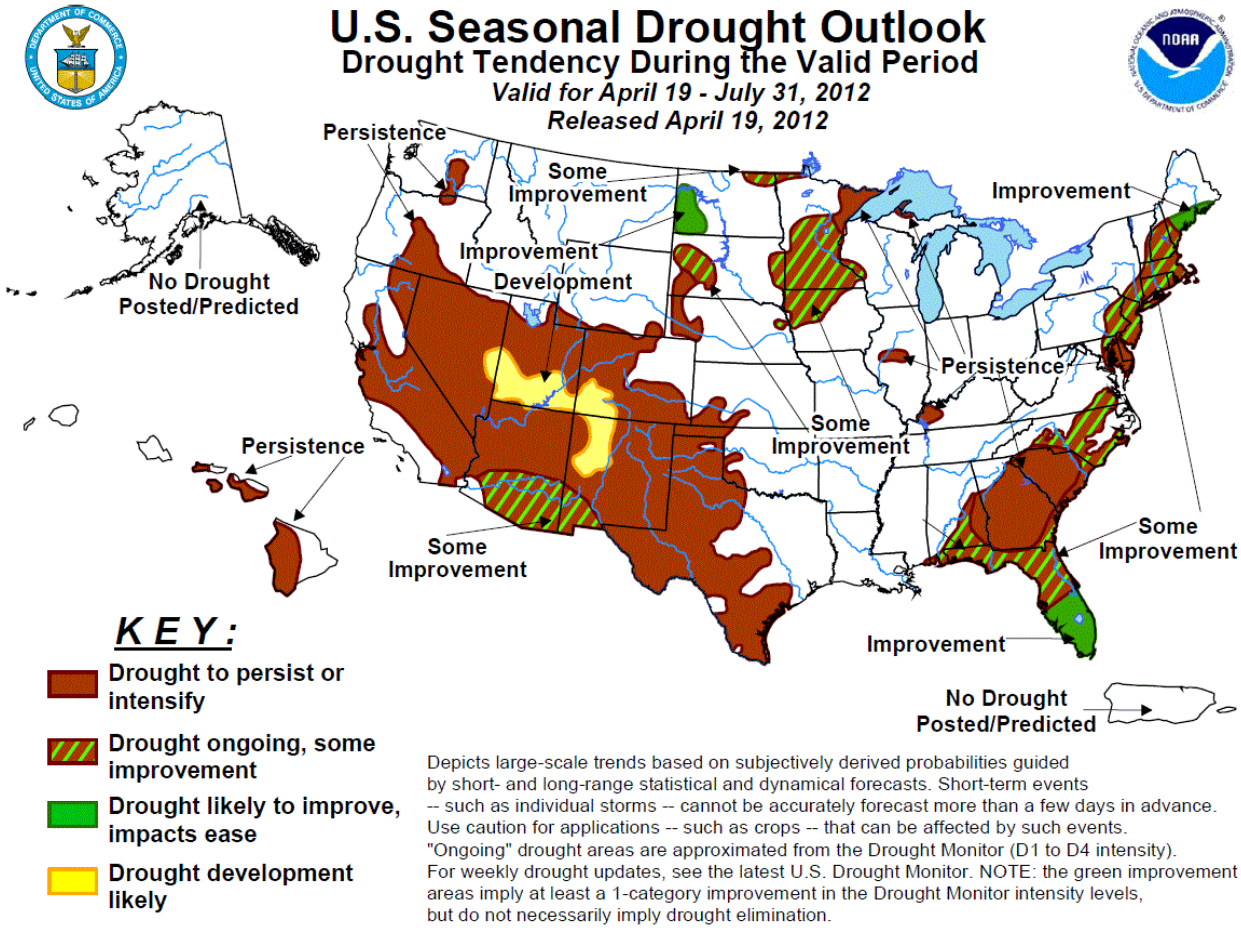
May – July Precipitation Outlook:

The North Central United States will have equal chances of above-normal (33%), near-normal (33%), or below-normal (33%) precipitation for May through July, with no strong climate signal preferring one category over another.



Seasonal Drought Outlook

The most recent Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates improvement is likely with the drought over western North Dakota. There is the potential for some improvement to drought over portions of Minnesota, northwestern Iowa and western South Dakota through July. Drought is expected to persist over portions of southwestern South Dakota and western Nebraska for the period.

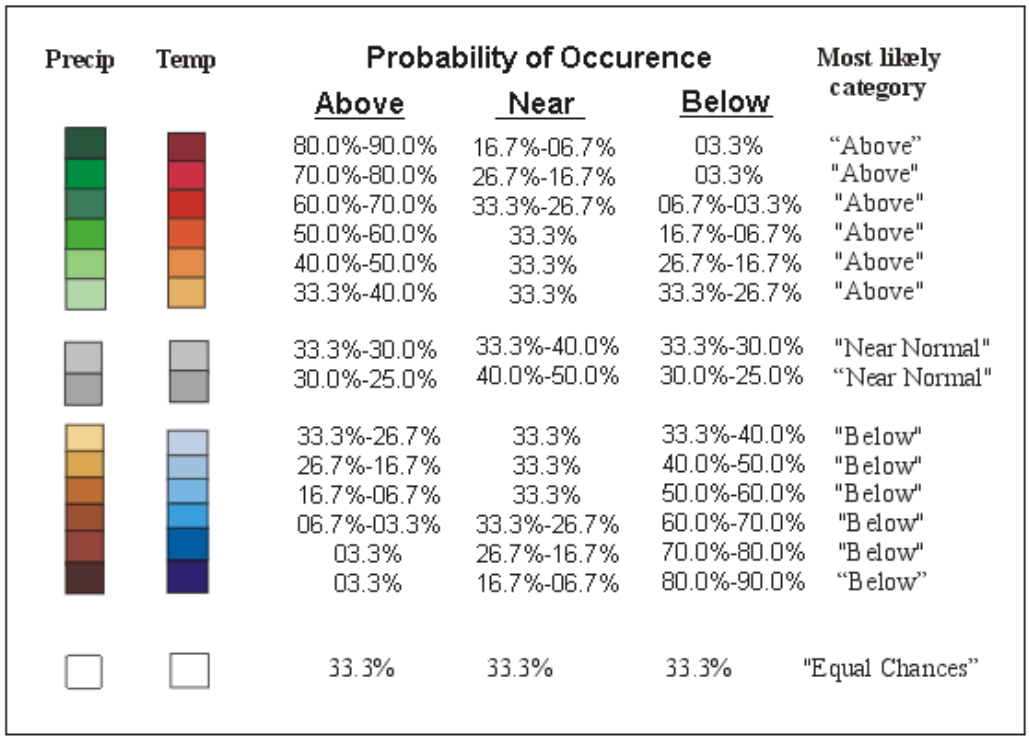


Seasonal Outlook Interpretation Guide

The outlooks indicate probability of being in three specific categories in reference to the 30-year climatology from 1981-2010:

Temperature		Precipitation	
Social Science	**Climate Science**	**Social Science**	**Climate Science**
Uncommonly Cold	Below Normal Tercile	Uncommonly Wet	Above Normal Tercile
Uncommonly Warm	Above Normal Tercile	Uncommonly Dry	Below Normal Tercile
Moderate (Neither Warm Nor Cold)	Normal Tercile	Moderate (Neither Wet nor Dry)	Normal Tercile

The National Weather Service Seasonal Climate Outlooks predict the probability of conditions being among the warmest/coldest or wettest/driest terciles of years compared to the period of 1981-2010:



Precip	Temp	Probability of Occurence			Most likely category
		Above	Near	Below	
		80.0%-90.0%	16.7%-06.7%	03.3%	"Above"
		70.0%-80.0%	26.7%-16.7%	03.3%	"Above"
		60.0%-70.0%	33.3%-26.7%	06.7%-03.3%	"Above"
		50.0%-60.0%	33.3%	16.7%-06.7%	"Above"
		40.0%-50.0%	33.3%	26.7%-16.7%	"Above"
		33.3%-40.0%	33.3%	33.3%-26.7%	"Above"
		33.3%-30.0%	33.3%-40.0%	33.3%-30.0%	"Near Normal"
		30.0%-25.0%	40.0%-50.0%	30.0%-25.0%	"Near Normal"
		33.3%-26.7%	33.3%	33.3%-40.0%	"Below"
		26.7%-16.7%	33.3%	40.0%-50.0%	"Below"
		16.7%-06.7%	33.3%	50.0%-60.0%	"Below"
		06.7%-03.3%	33.3%-26.7%	60.0%-70.0%	"Below"
		03.3%	26.7%-16.7%	70.0%-80.0%	"Below"
		03.3%	16.7%-06.7%	80.0%-90.0%	"Below"
		33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	"Equal Chances"